

KINGFISHER

Hampshire Ornithological Society Magazine

The Magazine for Hampshire Birders

Summer 2022 Issue 173



**Focus on young
photographer
Zac Welling**

**Campaigning against
Tipner West**

**Targeting wildlife
crime**

**Birds in folklore and
legend**



Front cover picture - Cetti's Warbler by Rob Porter

Inside front cover - Kingfisher by Lindsay Wright

Contents page - Pintail by Chris Rose

Centrespread - Sanderlings by Chris Rose

Back cover - Sunbathing Robin by Brian Cartwright

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FINALLY IT'S SUMMER!

Editorial by Carol Rawlings

My favourite time of year! I've switched from watching football to watching cricket. All our summer birds are back. Hatching and fledging are in full swing, with some birds on their second broods already. And the lovely light evenings means there's more time to get out and about on the marvellous nature reserves here in Hampshire. Which gives me more time to be confused by the plumage of juvenile birds!

In this issue we have a lovely set of postcards from three reserves in Hampshire, written by members who love birding there - that's on page 25. I've also visited Old Winchester Hill for the first time - see what I made of it on page 42.



**This Swallow makes my summer!
Photo: Rob Porter**

HOS is supporting the campaign to protect Tipner West - see page 23. This is on my doorstep and I'm very proud, as a HOS member, to be adding my voice to the fight to protect land for wildlife. And on page 29 you will see that we are asking all HOS members who are councillors to contact us so you can help us in future campaigns to protect nature where you are.

Another way to protect wildlife is to stop the illegal activity that is targeted at them. Following on from her appearance at the HOS Members' day in April I went to interview Inspector Korine Bishop from Hampshire Police who gave me an insight into the work her unit does. Read all about it on page 14.



Pied Wagtail - Rob Porter

If you are looking for something to spark a lively debate then look no further than page 48. Andy Johnson has listed his five favourite birds and the five birds he dislikes most. I'm sure Andy's opinions (and they are his opinions, not those of HOS or the Editor) will provoke some strong feelings among HOS members. I'd love to hear your views .

Those of you interested in the folklore of birds need look no further than page 17. We also have an eggsellent piece on birds' eggs on page 21!



Moorhen chicks - Andy Tew

In this issue we feature young photographer Zac Welling who shares five of his favourite photographs with us. See his brilliant pictures on page 44.

We also reprise the presentation our young members gave at Members' Day on page 10.

And if brilliant photography wasn't enough, we have launched the Kingfisher Gallery which is now open for business.

So if you enjoy drawing or painting birds or other wildlife and would like to share your pictures with us, please do send them in.

Our desert island castaway this issue is new HOS board member Helen Schneider. And speaking of HOS board members, we've done you a Who's Who in HOS together with a brief history of the Society so that those of you who haven't been members since it all began can get to know us better.

Keep your drawings and photographs coming in and get in touch if you have ideas for future articles in Kingfisher.

In the meantime, enjoy the summer and the wonderful reserves and beautiful places this county of ours has to offer. And if you should come across someone who is trying to turn a juvenile robin into a very rare bird, please do tap me on the shoulder and put me straight!

Happy birding!

Carol



Little Terns - Steve Payce

WHO'S WHO IN HOS

HOS is run by a management team who are all volunteers. We wanted to give you the opportunity to get to know us a little better, by telling you what we do in HOS, our favourite birds and where we like to watch birds in Hampshire.



Keith Betton
Chair/County Recorder
Peregrine Falcon
North Wessex Downs



David Brookes
Honorary Secretary
Hen Harrier/Redstart
Keyhaven Marshes/New Forest



Andy Mitchelmore
Honorary Treasurer
Bullfinch
Farlington Marshes



Marcus Ward
Chair, Scientific Committee
Hawfinch
New Forest/Normandy Marsh



Andrew Colenutt
Secretary, Scientific Committee
Grey-headed Albatross
Keyhaven/Lymington Marshes



Barry Page
Chair, Membership Committee
Arctic Tern
Old Winchester Hill



Kay Shillitoe
Membership Secretary
Blackbird
Old Winchester Hill



Andy Lester
Conservation Liaison Officer
Dipper/Wallcreeper
Fishlake Meadows



Carol Rawlings
Editor, Kingfisher
Peregrine Falcon
Farlington Marshes



Mike Chalmers
Editor, Bird Report
Wandering Albatross/
Ross's Gull
Farlington Marshes



Nicola Whitmarsh
Sales Officer
Can't name just one favourite bird!
Titchfield Haven



Annette Clayson
Walks co-ordinator
Nightjar/Lapwing
Alice Holt Forest



Janice Beck
Youth Membership
Co-ordinator
Stone Curlew
Overton



Jayne Chapman
Member, Management
Committee
House Sparrow
Blashford Lakes



Helen Schneider
Member, Management
Committee
Little Blue/Fairy
Penguin/Rhinoceros
Hornbill

Lymington/Keyhaven Marshes



Tony Sztypuljak
Member, Management
Committee
Robin
Keyhaven Marshes

Black-tailed Godwits - Steve Payce



HOS - A BRIEF HISTORY

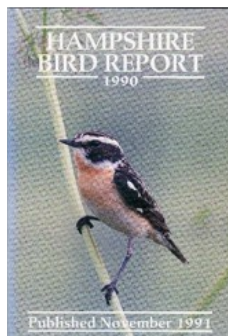
by Keith Betton

HOS was born in 1978 and came out of the Hampshire Field Club, dating from 1885.

The Hampshire Field Club published ornithological sightings in its journal and in 1939 it established a County Ornithological Committee. In 1954 an Ornithological Section was created and in its first year attracted 84 members. The Ornithological Section produced annual Bird Reports as part of the Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club until 1965.

In 1966, a number of Hampshire's leading ornithologists set up a small group, known as the "Ginger Group", with the twin objectives of achieving independence from the Hampshire Field Club and of revitalising the organisation of ornithological activities in Hampshire.

An interim report of the Group advocated the setting up of a register of observers in the county, an improved Bird Report format and the formation of an Executive Committee and of a Field Studies Committee. The Group's final report, accepted at the Ornithological Section AGM in 1968 contained recommendations which remain the basis of HOS's operation today. However it took another decade of negotiation before both parties finally agreed to create a new society.



On March 17th 1978, the Hampshire Ornithological Society was launched. Four years before this the county boundaries had changed with the result that Christchurch Harbour and part of the Avon valley had been moved into Dorset. With the creation of HOS the decision was made to adopt the new county boundary and also to stop reporting records from the Isle of Wight.

In the 1980s, HOS progressed through a period of consolidation and membership grew to around 400 members in 1978 and about 1,000 in 1991. The Society published *Birds of Hampshire* in 1994 and later the *Hampshire Bird Atlas* in 2015. Its most recent publication is *Rare Birds of Hampshire*.

Throughout this time its reputation as a recording body and instigator of county-wide surveys has grown. Today there are around 1,800 people submitting over 450,000 records to HOS each year, and the database is shared fully with Hampshire County Council to help inform planning decisions.

Recent years have seen membership reach around 2,000 which includes about 80 Young Members with their own special activities. 203 people joined HOS in 2021 - a record. HOS is represented on many conservation boards and working groups in the county. There are around 50 people who help keep the society's operations working. HOS has no paid staff so these volunteers are vital. We are hugely grateful for the work that everyone puts in.

We make a difference



Still growing Photo: Ian Julian

Over the years HOS has managed to make a difference for birds and birding. It has spearheaded the collection of data about birds in the county and it has published this in many forms. In turn this information has informed conservationists and planners. It has worked hard to engage not only with birders but those who are simply interested in nature.

We have a comprehensive programme of public facing events, including guided walks which are open to non-members, although

we do encourage participants to join! Our annual members' day keeps our members up to date with what we are doing and encourages them to get involved.

Like the rest of the world, the pandemic changed the way we work, so we have introduced a series of Zoom talks for members, something which we will continue into the future.

We are also proud of our growing numbers of young members, a lively and interested group who will one day become the conservationists of the future. HOS is determined, working with the Cameron Bepolka Trust, to continue to nurture these young people who our birds and wildlife will depend on in years to come.

All these events aim to raise the profile for birds. At the heart of its agenda, HOS wants to break down any perceived barriers and encourage everyone to take a greater interest in Hampshire's birds.



Our guided walks are back and still very popular! Photo: Ian Julian

A YEAR OF YOUNG MEMBERS

Those of you who were at the HOS members' day back in April will, I'm sure, remember the presentation given by 12 young HOS members. These remarkable young people, ranging in age from seven to 19, each took us through a month of the year highlighting their favourite birds from that month.

An article in Kingfisher can't possibly do justice to the presentations given on the day, but for those of you who were there we hope it serves as a small reminder of how good this session was. If you weren't there hopefully this will encourage you to come along next year so you don't miss the real thing!

Kicking us off in January Sreyann Akkaraju explained why he loves the Great Grey Shrike, Merlin and Purple Sandpiper. Leah Pink took on February and picked out Great Crested Grebe, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker and Firecrest as the birds she loves to see in winter.



**Stars on the day - young members with HOS President Chris Packham.
Photo: Ian Julian**

Great Crested Grebes also featured in Hugo Wilson's presentation for March, alongside Sparrowhawk, Peregrine and both Short-eared and Long-eared Owls. While nobody was fooling Poppy Emmens in April who spoke about her love for Stone Curlews, Avocet and Willow Warbler.

According to Harvey Webb, May is the month for owls as he chose to talk about Tawny Owl, Barn Owl and Little Owl, while June's presenter Charlie Murphy focussed on the Common Swift and the Spotted Flycatcher.

As we moved further into summer, Amy Squire stepped up for July and highlighted Yellowhammer, Sand Martin, Hawfinch and Kingfisher. August saw Zac Welling at the podium talking about Turtle Dove, Spotted Redshank and Long-billed Dowitcher before moving further afield with information about the Black-browed Albatross.

We continued on into autumn in our whistle-stop tour of the year with Annabelle Mudd explaining why the Barn Swallow is such an amazing bird. And for October Tom Reynolds spoke about the Barn Owl, the Robin and the Waxwing.

November saw Rufus Hunnisett focus on Fieldfare, Redwing and Siskin, while Kosta Schismenos rounded off the year by making Brent Goose his bird for December.

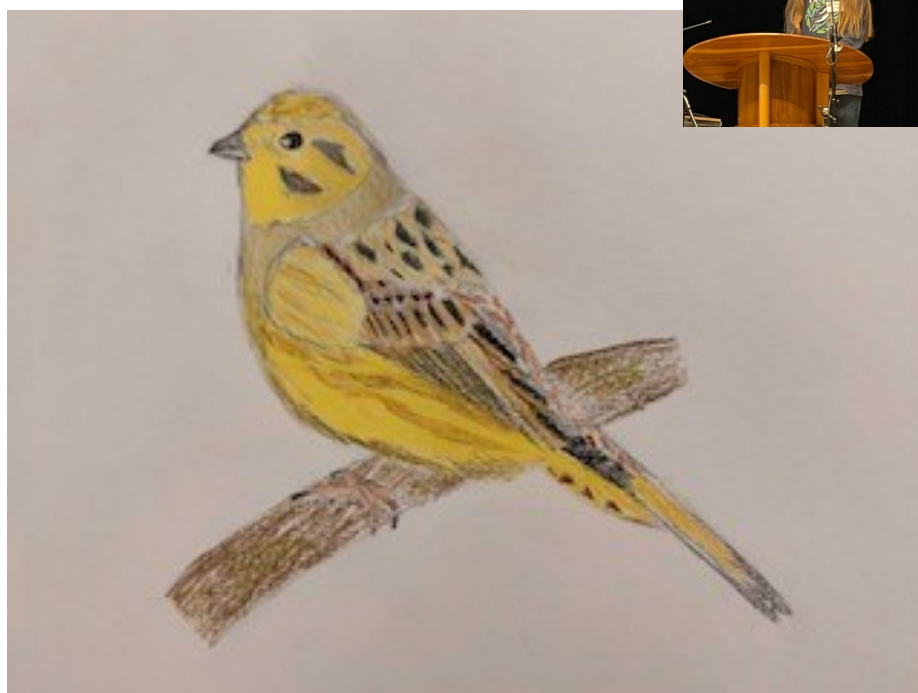
When the year ended the standing ovation showed the audience appreciated the expertise and enthusiasm of the presenters and recognised that the future of HOS and of nature conservation is in safe hands.

GALLERY

Welcome to the Kingfisher Art Gallery! As you will see as you flick through the pages of this magazine, we have many talented photographers sending us amazing pictures for every issue. That got us thinking about what other talents our members have, and so we decided to open the Gallery and invite you to submit your paintings and drawings of birds or other wildlife.

To start us off, we are featuring a beautiful drawing of a Yellowhammer done by HOS young member Amy Squire.

Just email us your art at hoskingfisher@outlook.com



LOOK BACK AT MEMBERS' DAY 2022

Words and pictures by Ian Julian

For the first time in three years (thanks Covid) we were able to meet in person for the HOS Members Day at St Swithun's School in Winchester.

We had full covid measures in place, and we took the decision not to provide refreshments, even cake. The hall was pretty much full in spite of several people not able to attend due to a positive Covid test.

As usual, a pleasant atmosphere prevailed, things were professionally run by a great team of volunteers, we had a good sound system, a good hall, good speakers and good exhibitors. It was colourful, cheerful and varied.

Everything seems hunky-dory with HOS - finances, membership growing to around 2,000, more youngsters (80), more surveys, more recording and more donations to worthwhile causes.



A busy exhibition

Inspector Korine Bishop from the Hampshire Police Rural and Wildlife Crime Unit gave a passionate talk. How great to hear an officer saying she took it personally, and how refreshing to hear her say that if anyone sees a wildlife offence being committed, do not hesitate, ring 999. Similarly, Mark Thomas of the RSPB told us what he and his team are doing to protect birds of prey and how proud he is of trying to bring the criminals to justice.

Chris Packham, has also become more involved in wildlife persecutions and we know the repercussions he has endured. If Sir David Attenborough is the world naturalist, then Chris is the British naturalist, so we are fortunate to have him as our President. He nearly always attends Members' Day and enjoys it as much as we do.



Chris Packham

A highlight of the day was 12 young members of HOS who took us through the birding year month by month. To be so young and standing up in front of 300 odd people must have been nerve-wracking but all the youngsters shone through.

Reading a report of the day isn't the same as being there. Planning for next year's event has already started, so hopefully we will see you there!

WATCHING SPARROWHAWKS

HOS member Sheila Williams has been watching and photographing a pair of local Sparrowhawks. After three attempts at nest building, Sheila is hoping that the pair will produce some chicks this year after a failed attempt in 2021. She has shared some of her pictures.



TAKING ON THE WILDLIFE CRIMINALS

Here in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, the police have a dedicated team of officers, police staff and volunteers who deal with wildlife and rural crime offences. That team is headed up by Inspector Korine Bishop, who some readers will have seen at the recent HOS members' day. Kingfisher Editor Carol Rawlings caught up with Korine to find out a bit more about her work.

Korine, did you always want to be a police officer?

Actually it was never my intention to join the police, in fact, I wanted to be a physiotherapist. I got my A levels and worked as a lifeguard for a bit, but while my sister was working in London I decided it would be a good chance to get some job interview experience. So, I applied for a job with the Metropolitan Police, got an interview and then got a call to say I had been accepted. Six months later I found myself at Hendon Police College starting my training.

Being a police officer might not have been what I planned, but I love it! The job is different everyday, it's exciting and I'm so glad to be here where I can help people and wildlife.

Can you tell us a bit about your unit at Hampshire Police?

We are lucky to have a dedicated rural and wildlife crime unit in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, which is called Country Watch.

The Country Watch community bus



I am head of the unit and I have a sergeant, eight police officers, three police staff investigators and five special constables (specials). In addition, we can call on a team of about 65 volunteers which include rural mounted volunteers and humane animal despatchers.

Our staff are spread across the whole county and they have all been specially trained to equip them to deal with wildlife crime.

We take the lead in investigating such crimes across Hampshire and the IOW and are also on hand as rural and wildlife crime experts to support other colleagues outside the unit in their work.

We've got quite a bit of kit to help us, which is good as we cover a large area geographically. We have 4x4s with built in Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) which is very useful as there isn't a lot of CCTV in the countryside. We have

Korine with Sergeant Stuart Ross



three drones and six of our officers are trained to use them, thermal imagers, speed guns and dog catching equipment as we can seize dogs that are being used for illegal activity such as hare coursing or poaching. Any dogs we seize are seen by a vet, go to kennels and then to foster homes before being rehomed.



Some of the team

We can also scan microchips in dogs and horses in the event of theft or criminal activity, and all our vehicles carry an equine pack containing food, a bucket and a harness so we can deal with lost, stolen or abandoned horses.

We have a special property marking system that we encourage people to use so that when property is stolen it is easier to reunite it with its owner via our website.

What are the particular difficulties in investigating wildlife crime?

Obviously animals can't talk so we are relying on witnesses and evidence when we investigate any incident of wildlife crime. So, if we are looking at a poisoning for example, we need to establish the basic facts such as who did it, when and how it was done. We can only do that if we have good evidence and good witnesses.

What's been seen is vitally important, whether it's out in the countryside, or a wildlife crime committed in someone's garden. When we investigate a case we have to have sufficient evidence, supported by the Crown Prosecution Service, to take to court. Sometimes it is small nuances that can really make the difference to the success of a case.

When we rely on witnesses, for example in the case of illegal hunting, we need to know what they actually saw, not what they think they've seen. It's about facts and an accurate description of what they have witnessed. Without a good witness and clear evidence, it can be very difficult to prove a case.

What would you like to see changed to make your job easier?

I would like to see all wildlife crime made a recordable offence as that would result in harsher convictions. I would welcome changes to allow for tougher sentences. I would like to see improvements, both within our force and nationally, around the recording of wildlife crime. I would like to see more recovery of proceeds of crime that would hit the criminals where it hurts most, in their pockets.

Drones are an important tool



How can HOS members help you and your colleagues stamp out wildlife crime?

You can really help us by reporting any wildlife crimes you see or become aware of. If the crime is happening now, call 999 and tell us about it. If it has already happened you can report it using our non-urgent number 101 or by reporting it online on the Hampshire Police website at www.hampshire.police.uk. You can also use Crimestoppers to report a crime anonymously.

Try to get evidence as this will help us enormously. Things like dashcam footage, or videos and photographs taken on your phone are very important, but please do not do any editing of the footage. It is vital that we see unedited footage as that stops any questions about what might have been edited out or why the video has been stopped and restarted, questions that can harm our case.



Mounted volunteers

Often people say telling the police about a crime is a waste of time, but I would say please report any crime, not just wildlife crime, as what you tell us will help us build a bigger picture of what is happening. And what you say might just be a vital piece of the jigsaw that helps us catch the criminals.

And if you are one of the people who are annoyed about the sentences being handed down to the perpetrators of wildlife crime, why not think about being a magistrate and making a difference that way?

What is your proudest moment in your job?

I think my proudest moment so far has been getting my current job. What I do now is so different to other policing and it really is my dream job. I feel like I can make a difference and, as an animal lover, it is important for me to be the voice that speaks up for wildlife and helps to protect it.

Finally, what is your favourite bird?

I would have to say Robin with Peregrine a close second, thanks to the work I've been doing with HOS to help monitor these birds. I'm learning more about birds every day and living in the New Forest helps me do that. I feed the birds in my garden and currently have sparrows nesting in the box we put up for the bluetits, which is great.



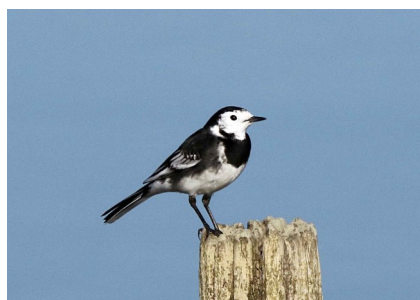
Monitoring Peregrines in the Solent

BIRDS IN LEGEND AND FOLKLORE

By Roger Sharpe

To keen birders out there, the scientific approach to birding - keeping records, collecting data, analysing sightings and information has become second nature. But it might surprise you to know that this scientific approach only emerged over the last few hundred years. Earlier generations did not think this way, and the provincial names and folklore of birds give us a fascinating insight into the way they looked at birds.

Let's start with terminology. There is no nationwide consistency in the local names of British birds. A Pied Wagtail was called a Seed Lady in Peebles, a Molly Washdish in Hampshire and a Devil's Bird in Ireland. Linguistics create further differences, with an Anglo-Saxon term such as "Ammer" ("small bird") creating the modern corruption of "Yellowhammer", whereas the name Mavis (Song Thrush) is of French origin. This variety is unsurprising, because rural communities tended to be more isolated with limited access to printed material.



Molly Washdish at Titchfield Haven

Some small passerines gained folk names of a diminutive character, with terms such as Jack Nicker for Goldfinch, Titty Todger for Wren and Tom Thumb for Willow Warbler. Hampshire had quite a number of local names. The Wryneck was a Snake Bird, the Chaffinch a Chink Chaffey, the Nightjar a Gnat Hawk and the Green Woodpecker a Yaffingale or Woodsucker. Often, the name imitates the bird's call, such as Pink or Spink for Chaffinch or Toozoo for Woodpigeon.

Sometimes traditional names are better. The "Common" Tern is anything but common - its old name of "Sea Swallow" captures all its grace and beauty.

Some of the most evocative bird legends date from a period when mankind believed in species-switching, so people could be transformed into birds and vice versa. Swans could readily turn into attractive maidens and embodied the souls of virgins who died after a pure and virtuous life, so killing them was inadvisable. The fact that birds could fly heavenwards led prescientific people to believe that they contained the souls of the dead and in some coastal communities gulls were thought to embody the souls of drowned mariners.

Much "bird-lore" attempts to predict the future, including the weather. Some of these notions, for example, the idea that gulls inland means approaching bad weather, look plausible. Others, such as the notion that the call of the owl indicated approaching thunder, are more speculative. More interesting are predictions of human fortune. The Cuckoo generated a particularly wide range of superstitions – it could predict

your lifespan, your marital prospects and the quality of the next harvest, depending on when you heard it and how many times it called.

Bird legends are every bit as inconsistent and localised as bird names. For example, the evocative calls of diver species ("loons") stirred the imagination of Northern peoples whereas their winter visits down our way seem to have gone unnoticed. In some coastal areas the wren was killed owing to the belief that setting sail with a dead bird or even a wren's feather would save you from drowning.

Corvids tended to attract unfavourable coverage in legend and folklore. Magpies, Ravens and Carrion Crows were (mostly) disliked and feared. Ravens were seen as harbingers of doom, possibly because they were always ready to feed on dead bodies, including human ones. Crows were a particularly bad omen if seen on your left hand side. The sight of a Magpie was generally unlucky, but prompt action such as doffing your hat or making the sign of the cross might save the day. Rooks, less rampantly carnivorous, got a better press – they were thought to suspend nest-building on Ascension Day as a mark of piety.

Many bird legends are vaguely religious in nature. I say "vaguely" because none of these stories have genuine Biblical credentials, nor did our ancestors see any need to subject a good, pious yarn to rigorous quality control. The Oystercatcher, for example, was supposed to have hidden Jesus under some seaweed. Other birds were punished for New Testament misdemeanours. The Lapwing, Cuckoo, Woodpecker and Tawny Owl were all turned from people into birds for refusing to share bread with Jesus.

As well as Biblical figures the saints sometimes feature in bird lore. The Eider is still called "St Cuthbert's Duck" after the saint who gave the species his protection and those who persecuted the bird were cursed.

We should think twice before dismissing our ancestors as stupid. Some (to us) nonsensical theories were the work of scholars and arose from deference to tradition and religion. If one of these scholars could be brought back today to explain his theories he would probably reach for the works of Aristotle rather than binoculars.



One for sorrow - Brian Cartwright

However rational and scientific we think we are, odd bits of avian superstition ("one for sorrow") still survive today. Has science torn some of the more colourful threads from life's rich pattern? The many books on birds in legend and folklore prove that this vibrant world of human imagination is still fascinating.

Further reading/sources used in this article

Revd Charles Swainson, *The Folk Lore and Provincial Names of British Birds* (1885)
E A Armstrong, *Birds in Folklore and Legend* (1958).
Francesca Greenoak, *British Birds: their Folklore, Names and Literature* (1997).

WALK THE WALK

HOS Walks are back to 'normal'. In the main there is no need to book a place anymore. However some do still need booking because of practical or Covid-related reasons - please check on the HOS website. To book you need to call or text walks co-ordinator Annette, on 07980 976748 or email annettemclayson@gmail.com.

We aim to get back to you as quickly as possible, but if you do not hear back within 24 hours please try again. Please do not just turn up at walks where booking is required as you will be turned away.



Robin - Brian Cartwright

We have only put the dates and times of the walks here. There is more detailed and up to date information on the HOS website (hos.org.uk).

It's also worth checking the website to make sure there have been no changes since Kingfisher was published. If you can't access the internet please contact Annette. Extra walks will also be on the web pages if they have been arranged after Kingfisher has been printed.

The walks are for HOS members, however non-members are always welcome.

If you have general queries about the walks programme please contact Annette. If your query is about a specific walk then please contact the leader direct.

Sunday 3 July

Hut Wood

Leader Martin Smith 2-4.30pm

Saturday 9 July

Tidgrove Warren

Leaders Keith Betton and Janice Beck 9.30am-12.30pm

Sunday 24 July

White Hill and Watership Down

Leaders Rachael Groundsell and

Felicia Green 9am-1pm

Saturday 30 July

Magdalen Hill Down

Leaders Anna and Dave Stewart

10.30am-2pm





Grey Wagtail - Brian Cartwright

Saturday 6 August

Martin Down
Leaders Keith Betton and Janice Beck
9am-1pm

Saturday 13 August

Longparish
Leader Geoff Sharp 9.30am-noon

Saturday 27 August

St Catherine's Hill, Winchester
Leader Tom Jordan 9am-noon

Sunday 28 August

Early migrant birds at Farlington
Marshes
Leader Kevin Stouse 9.30am-2pm

Sunday 4 September

Old Winchester Hill
Leaders Keith Betton and Janice Beck 10am-1pm

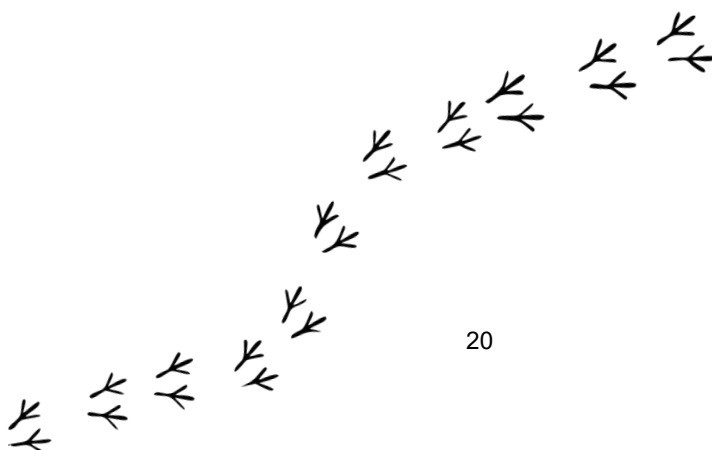
Wednesday 21 September

Migrant birds at Farlington Marshes
Leader Kevin Stouse 9.30am-2pm

Sunday 5 September

Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes
Leader Ian Packer 9.30am-3pm

Little Egret - Chris Rose



DID YOU KNOW?

All you ever wanted to know about eggs by Keith Betton



Peregrine eggs– Keith Betton

All bird eggs include a hard shell, a porous membrane for the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide, and a rich yolk that nourishes the developing chick.

The yolk is made of fat and protein and varies in colour depending on the quality and composition of the laying female's diet.

The word “yolk” derives from an Old English word for “yellow”.

An eggshell can have as many as 17,000 pores allowing moisture from the chick to escape.

As the chick grows in the egg and uses up the yolk so the egg weighs less.

Some birds (such as Blue Tits) lay many eggs and wait until the clutch is complete before incubating them. That way they all hatch together. Some birds (such as Peregrines) wait until the clutch is almost complete before incubating. That means they always have one chick that is smaller than its siblings.

An incubating bird turns its eggs nearly 50 times a day to keep the yolk from sticking to the side.

The incubation period for eggs can vary greatly, ranging from just 10 days for many small passerines to 85 days for very large birds. Penguins, albatrosses and kiwis have some of the longest incubation periods.

Some ducks practice “egg dumping”, which means laying their eggs in another nest of a bird of its own species. They may also lay eggs in their own nest.

**Blue Tit
Brian Cartwright**



The colours of eggs vary significantly, and even if they appear white to us, they often show bolder colours under ultraviolet light. Birds can see ultraviolet colours and this helps them to distinguish different eggs

The eggs of cavity-nesting birds are often plain, but eggs that are laid in more open areas are often marked to help with camouflage.

Larger eggs generally have proportionally thicker shells. Cassowary eggs have the thickest shells, which can be up to one-quarter of an inch thick. The largest eggs are laid by ostriches, averaging about three pounds in weight.

Kiwis lay the largest eggs in proportion to females' body. A single egg may be 25% of the female's size.

The Vervain Hummingbird from the West Indies lays the smallest egg - just one-third of an inch long and weighing just one-third of a gram.



Camouflaged Stone Curlew eggs - Keith Betton



Reed Warbler - Rob Porter

Many nesting birds will eat the eggshells from their own chicks, which replenishes the adults' calcium, but also helps protect the nest from predators by removing the shells.

Not all birds lay eggs in their own nests or even raise their own chicks. Around the world there are many species of brood parasites that deliberately lay eggs in others' nests and let "foster" parents raise their chicks.

Cuckoos are the only brood parasite in the UK, and each female specialises in laying eggs to match those of just one particular host species, such as a Dunnock or Reed Warbler. A female Cuckoo born in a Dunnock nest will go on to parasitize mostly Dunnocks throughout her life



Cuckoo - Rob Porter

PROTECTING TIPNER WEST

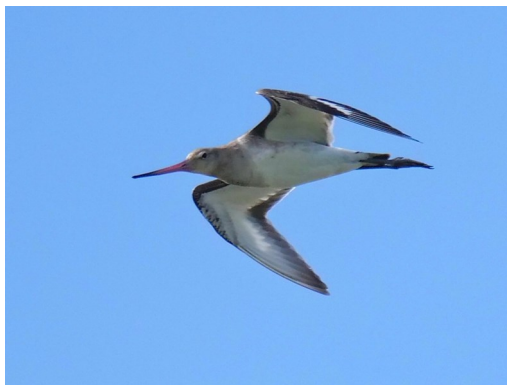
By Carol Rawlings



HOS is supporting an imaginative idea aimed at protecting valuable land for wildlife in Portsmouth's Tipner West by stopping plans to develop a 'super peninsula' there.

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) and the RSPB have come up with an alternative development plan for the land at Tipner West which allows the council to build much needed homes and create employment opportunities while at the same time protecting Portsmouth Harbour's Special Protection Area (SPA), Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Ramsar site.

The two organisations have worked with Influence Landscape Architects to draw up images to show Portsmouth City Council that it is possible to build a new, nature-positive development that meets the Council's need for housing while avoiding any damage to the protected areas for wildlife. This will help Brent Geese, Black-Tailed Godwit and Dunlin who use the legally protected coastal meadow as a high tide roost.



Black-tailed Godwit - Rob Porter

Now there is a small window of opportunity to convince councillors to change their plans in favour of this alternative. Failure to do so will have consequences for more than just this area of Portsmouth. HOS Chair Keith Betton said: "This plan for a super peninsula really must be stopped because the Harbour is a Special Protection Area. Regardless of the relative merits of this site, allowing unrestricted development here is signing the death knell for other SPAs that have been designated



Brent Geese - Rob Porter

along the coast. The protection is there for a good reason."

HOS has asked members living in Portsmouth to write to their local councillors opposing the super peninsula idea and asking them to support the ideas put forward by the HIWWT and RSPB as these are the only way to protect vulnerable wildlife on the site. If you haven't already done so, you can still make your views known to your local councillor. There's plenty of helpful information on the Wildlife Trust's website hiwwt.org.uk.

Keith added: "We really do need to keep up the pressure on politicians in Portsmouth to take the right decision and not open the door to future development on protected sites right across the county and beyond."

David Allwright from HIWWT told Kingfisher: "We have had a very positive reaction to our alternative vision for Tipner West that avoids building on protected sites. Now we are due to meet with the council planning team to try to convince them that avoiding protected sites is the right foundation for any future plans they put together. The local MP Penny Mordaunt has already come out in favour of our vision and over 300 emails from residents have been sent to councillors in the last few weeks asking them to protect nature."

We will keep you updated on Tipner West in the coming weeks and months.



WISH YOU WERE HERE?

**Three fabulous reserves -
three postcards to make
you wish you were here!**



Photo: David Martin

Andy Lester sends a postcard from fabulous Fishlake Meadows

Greetings from Fishlake Meadows where the breeding season is now in full swing. Among the cacophony of Sedge, Reed and Cettis warbler - all trying to out sing each other, you may be lucky enough to hear the reeling of a Grasshopper Warbler or the brief chatter of a Whitethroat. I have enjoyed trying to pick out the rarer species from amongst the noisier birds!

It's been exciting here with the return of our regular blue-ringed osprey. This non-breeder from Rutland Water has returned on almost the same date as in 2021. In a year it will be old enough to breed. The question is whether it will choose Fishlake Meadows as its nest site or return to its birth place in Rutland.

There have been many other birds of prey overhead in the last few days. One lucky observer encountered a fly-through Black Kite. But you are far more likely to see Hobby busy hawking dragonflies, while Red Kite, Buzzard, Kestrel and Sparrowhawk are all resident in the woodland areas. Finally, I got lucky in the evening sunshine a few days ago watching young Kingfisher learning to fly. There is nothing better than a flash of blue in the evening sunshine - and the attendant great white egret seemed oblivious to the activity of three young Kingfisher just a few meters away.

A postcard from Titchfield Haven
By Richard Carpenter



This time of year the main attraction are young birds following a successful breeding season. We have young Marsh Harriers learning to hunt and young Avocets being protected by zealous adults.

Birdsong has passed its springtime peak but there is still plenty to hear as many birds continue to sing sporadically. Cetti's Warbler's produce an occasional burst of loud song while Reed Warblers and Sedge Warblers chatter away quietly in the reedbeds. In the more wooded areas, Blackcaps continue to serenade and Whitethroats scratch away in the scrub.

Return migration begins in July. The first Sand Martins are seen then and some interesting waders such as Common, Green and Wood Sandpipers and Little Ringed Plovers can be seen feeding around the edges of the scrapes. In August passerine migration gets under way and Whinchats and Wheatears may be seen on fence-lines plus Spotted Flycatchers and Redstarts in wooded areas.

Summer is not just about birds though. It is a colourful time for flowers, which attract a good variety of butterflies. Ponds and channels are excellent places to see Dragonflies and Damselflies, of which Titchfield Haven boasts a good variety. Many other insects of all types may be seen in good numbers.

Rob Farnworth sends greetings from Keyhaven/Lymington



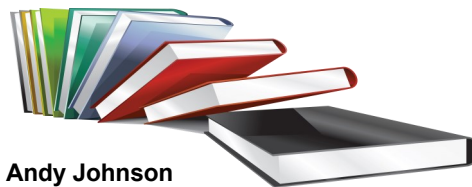
Nestled between the mouth of Lymington River and Hurst Spit lies one of the best reserves Hampshire has to offer. Its secret is it has most things for most people. You can spend a good day traveling over 10 miles from end to end and back, or you can make a short loop from any start position, all via easily navigable paths, all passable in all conditions by people of most ages and abilities.

The mixtures of habitats in the area mean you can walk from tree lined lanes to marsh lagoons and onto open sea in just minutes, with unobstructed views of them all and often close views of the inhabitants. The more familiar the area becomes, the more change becomes familiar. The tide, the time of day, the week, the month, the seasons, all affect what may be seen at any moment ranging from the usual suspects to extreme rarities.

If there's one problem with Keyhaven/Lymington then it's simply keeping yourself away or having to leave.

You can find out more about these three reserves in Keith Betton's book **Where to Watch Birds in Dorset, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight**, or online. For Titchfield Haven go to hants.gov.uk and for Keyhaven and Fishlake visit hiwwt.org.uk

BOOK REVIEW BOOK REVIEW BOOK REVIEW



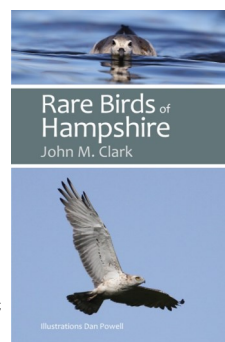
By Andy Johnson

Rare Birds of Hampshire by John Clark. Illustrated by Dan Powell

John Clark has drawn on his encyclopaedic knowledge of Hampshire birds (and birders!) to produce this in-depth (but impartial) analysis of the history of rare birds of his home county. Extensive research has clearly gone into the older records, in particular, enabling this landmark publication to establish a solid baseline for the current status of all Hampshire rarities.

Ahead of the species accounts is a brief but fascinating history of rare bird recording from pre-19th century through to the modern day, charting the change from 'procurement' of specimens, to increased field recording, and ever-improving knowledge and technology.

Well over 200 species (or recognisable subspecies) are dealt with in this epic tome, including (by my reckoning) 47 that have occurred only once as a wild bird in the county. Often the driving force behind many birders' obsession, the tales of the highs and lows of seeing these rare birds are forever a hot topic of conversation, and here we have 175 fascinating "Finders Accounts" brought together in a single volume, most involving firsts for the county, and including many published for the first time. For those with an interest, they may bring back happy memories, or painful experiences, or just make mouth-watering - and sometimes amusing - reading!



Dan Powell (left) and John Clark signing copies of the book at the launch event in May.

The species accounts include some older records that perhaps haven't stood the test of time quite so well, whilst the inclusion of some "not proven" and even "not submitted" records for certain species ensures that the accounts are complete, allowing readers to come to their own conclusions. Similarly, the appendices detail the occurrences of species not yet on the Hampshire list, which were i) deemed to be escapes, ii) not proven or not submitted, iii) suspect, iv) ship-assisted, or v) recorded in that part of Dorset that was Hampshire. These appendices are fascinating reading!

The clear criteria for species to qualify as 'rare' means that some initially unexpected species are included, especially former rarities that we almost no longer even notice (eg Little Egret, Mediterranean Gull, Red Kite, Bearded Tit and Cetti's Warbler), but also formerly regular species that have disappeared, the most recent addition to this category being Tree Sparrow. One wonders which species will fall into the latter category in the next edition – Turtle Dove, Wood Warbler and Willow Tit, perhaps.



Queuing for copies at the launch.

Besides the wealth of information on all these rare birds, the majority are of course illustrated with a huge array of generally excellent photographs (and the occasional 'record' shot!) of the actual individuals, by an equally wide range of photographers, including some fabled old records, such as Tundra Swan, Killdeer, Scops Owl and Lanceolated Warbler, to name but four! Add a generous scattering of Dan Powell's characterful field notes for some of the numerous rarities that he twitched (or indeed found), and this is an extremely attractive publication.

It goes without saying that everybody reading this review already has an interest in this subject, being a HOS member, and I expect there are very few who have not already ordered (if not received) their copy. £35 for this treasure trove of information, photographs and artwork is an absolute bargain! You can buy a copy on the HOS website at hos.org.uk or by emailing Sales Manager Nicola Whitmarsh at hos.nwhitmarsh@yahoo.com

CALLING ALL LOCAL COUNCILLORS!

An important part of the work HOS does is campaign to protect species and habitats from planning decisions that will negatively impact them.

Local councillors have an important part to play in planning decisions, so we are asking all HOS members who are councillors to drop us a quick email and tell us which ward and which council you represent.

We won't bombard you, we know councillors are exceptionally busy people, but it would be great to work with you to help save spaces for nature and ensure that all plans take into consideration the needs of local wildlife.

**So, if you'd like to help HOS please email us at HOSkingfisher@outlook.com
Let's work together for Hampshire's birds and wildlife.**





WHAT'S BEEN SPOTTED

January to April 2022 by Tom Jordan

Around 220 species were seen during the period. This summary focuses on larger counts, scarcer species and unexpected localities reported throughout the period (capitals indicating national rarities or species with less than annual occurrence in Hampshire). Most records are from Birdguides and Goingbirding websites: a much more complete picture will eventually appear in the Hampshire Bird Report. Regular site summaries appear monthly in *Birdwatching* magazine and on the HOS website. Sightings refer to single birds unless otherwise stated. Inclusion in this list does not indicate that sightings of rarities have been considered by the appropriate records committee.

Black Brant: Emsworth 5/1, 19/1, 25/1, 1/2, 2 8/2, 2 27/2; Langstone Harbour 7/3
Russian White-fronted Goose: Efford Lake 3 1/1; The Vyne 2 1/1, 9/1; Cams Bay 3/2; Brownich 5/2, 10/2; Titchfield Haven 5/2 - 22/2; Solent Breezes 16/2; Harbridge 8/3 - 11/3; Lower Test Marshes 27/4
Greenland White-fronted Goose: Farlington Marshes 17/1; Hook-with-Warsash 23/1
Whooper Swan: Eastleigh 26/2; Winchester 29/3 - 8/4, 19/4, 24/4; Kingston Common 11/4
Garganey: Hill Head 2 17/3, 17 21/3, 3 11/4; Badminton GP 3 19/3; Posbrook Floods 20/3, 5 21/3; Sandy Point, Hayling Island 30 21/3, 6 11/4; Chilling Cliffs 7 21/3, 3 11/4; Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes 6 21/3, 1-2 22/3 - 26/3, 5/4, 2 22/4; Avington Lake 2 21/3; Taddiford 22/3, 4 26/4; Testwood Lakes 1-2 23/3 - 31/3, 1-3 13/4 - 16/4; West Leigh, Havant 3/4; Titchfield Haven 2 5/4 - 9/4; Hurst Beach 6 17/4
Red-crested Pochard: Blashford Lakes 7/1, 9/1, 11/1, 29/1
FERRUGINOUS DUCK: Kingfisher Lake, Blashford Lakes 2/1, 5/1, 9/1
Scaup: Avon Flood, Keyhaven 15/4 - 16/4
Velvet Scoter: Brownich/Hill Head max. 8 1/1 - 27/1, 6/3, 28/3, 25/4 - 28/4; Black Point, Hayling Island 4/1; Taddiford 3 22/3; Milford-on-Sea 2 10/4, 4 12/4
Long-tailed Duck: Langstone Harbour 1/1 - 12/1
ALPINE SWIFT: Brownich 29/3
Slavonian Grebe: Brownich/Hill Head 1/1, 5/1, 6/1, 2 16/1, 20/2; Sandy Point, Hayling Island 2 3/1, 2 9/1, 2 18/1; Langstone Harbour 4/1; Pennington Marsh 3 9/1, 12/1, 2 4/2 - 5/2, 22/3; Calshot 20/2; Ibsley Water, Blashford Lakes 5/3
Black-necked Grebe: Langstone Harbour max. 8 4/1- 3/2; Efford Lake 14/1 - 17/1; Hill Head 6/3
Ruff: Pennington Marsh max. 7 5/1 - 16/4; Hill Head 11 21/3; Titchfield Haven 26/3, 5/4; Posbrook Floods 27/3, 2 1/4 - 2/4, 10/4 Brownich 2 29/3; Normandy Marsh 2 5/4; Fishlake Meadows 4 16/4, 23/4; Fleet Pond 23/4
Curlew Sandpiper: The Kench, Hayling Island

Purple Sandpiper - Rob Porter



24/4; Normandy Marsh 30/4

Purple Sandpiper: Southsea Castle max. 13 5/1 - 28/3; Barton-on-Sea max. 36 5/1 - 3/4; Hurst Beach 4 17/1

Little Stint: Normandy Marsh 1/1 - 12/3

Jack Snipe: Hook-with-Warsash 12/1, 17/1, 18/1; Alver Valley 13/1, 22/1; Ashley Walk 15/1; Newnham 10 18/1; The Vyne Watermeadows 17 23/1; Titchfield Haven 17 28/1; Barton-on-Sea 8/3; Fishlake Meadows 2/4; Iley Point, Keyhaven 1-2 2/4 - 10/4



Spotted Redshank
Chris Rose

Wood Sandpiper: Farlington Marshes 22/4; Posbrook Floods 1-2 25/4 - 29/4

Spotted Redshank: Normandy Marsh max. 3 1/1 - 25/4; Mercury Marshes 3/1; Emsworth 4/1 - 27/2; Farlington Marshes 16/4, 21/4

Kittiwake: Barton-on-Sea 6 1/1, 16 12/2, 5 8/3; Lepe 19/2; Titchfield Haven 24/2, 28/2; Hill Head 3 8/3, 6/4; Milford-on-Sea 3 13/4; Weston Shore 3 23/4

Little Gull: Solent Breezes 16/1; Posbrook Floods 13/3; Sandy Point, Hayling Island 5 21/3; Hill Head/Brownwich 5 21/3, 8/4, 6 11/4, 3 24/4; Ibsley Water, Blashford Lakes 6 22/3, 5 23/4, 2 24/4; Milford-on-Sea 10/4; Stokes Bay 2 11/4; Fishlake Meadows 11/4; Fleet Pond 22/4, 16 23/4

RING-BILLED GULL: Ibsley Water, Blashford Lakes 18/1 - 19/3; Tidpit Down 5/2

Iceland Gull: Meonstoke 14/2

Caspian Gull: Fareham Creek 8/2 - 11/2, 23/2; Ibsley Water, Blashford Lakes 5/3, 10/3; Farlington Marshes 19/2

Yellow-legged Gull: Ibsley Water, Blashford Lakes max. 5 1/1 - 17/2; Centurion Business Park, Southampton 6/1; Efford Lake 16/1; Lepe 25/1; Hittingbury Lakes 25/1, 26/1; Fareham Creek 3/2, 10/2 - 14/2; Tidpit Down 2 5/2, 2 7/2; Lepe 17/2; Hook-with-Warsash 25/2, 25/4; Bickton 22/3; Barton-on-Sea 28/3; Hordle Cliff 8/4

Arctic Tern: Weston Shore 26 23/4; Hill Head 23/4, 2 27/4; Netley 3 23/4, 14 24/4; Hook-with-Warsash 8 23/4; Taddiford 3 24/4; Hayling Oyster Beds 24/4

Black Tern: Weston Shore 4 23/4; Brownwich 2 23/4; Hill Head 26/4

Great Skua: Barton-on-Sea 12/2; Sandy Point, Hayling Island 2 10/4, 13/4; Milford-on-Sea 12/4, 26/4

Pomarine Skua: Milford-on-Sea 29/4

Arctic Skua: Milford-on-Sea 10/4, 3 11/4, 5 12/4, 3 13/4, 2 26/4, 3 29/4; Hill Head/Brownwich 10/4, 6 11/4, 2 28/4, 2 30/4; Sandy Point, Hayling Island 8 11/4, 7 12/4; Stokes Bay 7 11/4, 30/4; Lepe 11/4, 12/4; Taddiford 11/4

Red-throated Diver: Brownwich/Hill Head 2 1/1, 5 10/1, 27/1 11/4, 24/4; Langstone Harbour 3/1; Sandy Point, Hayling Island 9/1, 30/1, 20 12/4; Lee-on-the-Solent 2 10/1; Northney, Hayling Island 28/1, 30/1; Milford-on-Sea 12/4; Stokes Bay 30/4

Black-throated Diver: Sandy Point, Hayling Island 1-3 1/1 - 18/4; Langstone Harbour 2 2/1;



Black-throated Diver - Andy Tew

Great Northern Diver - Andy Tew



Barton-on-Sea 2/1; Weston Shore 4/1;
Gilkicker Point 14/1; Eastney 2 16/1;
Portsmouth Harbour 2 26/2 - 2/3;
Taddiford 22/3; Milford-on-Sea 10/4, 12/4;
Hill Head 11/4; Hayling Bay 19/4 - 30/4
Great Northern Diver: Weston Shore 1-3 3
1/1 - 13/3; Brownwich/Hill Head 1/1, 14/1,
15/1; Sandy Point, Hayling Island 9/1, 12/1, 2
13/1; Netley 2 14/1, 21/1, 2 22/2; Chessel
Bay, Southampton 17/1; Lepe 21/1, 25/1,
19/2, 19/3; Oxey Marsh 9/2; Hook-with-

Warsash 4/3; Barton-on-Sea 8/3; Hamble Point 13/3

Leach's Petrel: Netley 4/1

Fulmar: Barton-on-Sea 8/3, 6/4; Hayling Bay 2 4/4; Hill Head 6/4, 23/4; Sandy Point,
Hayling Island 3 7/4

Manx Shearwater: Barton-on-Sea 6/4; Hill Head 6/4; Milford-on-Sea 12/4; Sandy
Point, Hayling Island 3 17/4; Taddiford 4 28/4

Gannet: Normandy Marsh 41 2/1; Barton-on-Sea 6 9/1, 4 8/3, 6/4; Lepe 6 30/3;
Gilkicker Point 10/4; Hamble Point 11/4; Hill Head-Chilling 3 11/4, 27/4, 30/4;
Taddiford 33 11/4; Stokes Bay 2 11/4; Keyhaven Marsh 11 20/4; Netley 24/4

Shag: Weston Shore 1/1, 13/2; Southsea Castle 15/1, 3 15/1; Barton-on-Sea 6 20/1,
6 22/1, 5 23/1, 3 24/1, 25/1, 7 30/1, 9 12/2, 25 27/2, 6/4; Hamble Point 23/1, 13/3; Hill
Head 1/3; Gilkicker Point 5/3; Milford-on-Sea 13/4

Glossy Ibis: Farlington Marshes 14/1, 15/1, 21/1; Warblington 3 15/1; Langstone
Harbour 4 15/1; Broadlands Lake 6 15/1; Hook-with-Warsash 16/1, 17/1, 19/1 - 21/1;
Titchfield Haven 17/1 - 19/1; Lower Test Marshes 21/1; Bursledon 24/1; Titchfield
Canal Path/Posbrook Floods 3 17/3, 6 13/4; Lower Pennington Lane 3 17/3;
Langstone Mill Pond 2 17/4

Spoonbill: Inchmery/Lepe max.
14 12 1/1 - 11/2; Lymington
Estuary 12 26/1, 5 29/1;
Normandy-Keyhaven 29/1, 3/2, 1-
6 23/2 - 22/3, 5/4; Titchfield
Haven 5 11/2; Sandy Point,
Hayling Island 2 10/3, 28/3;
Farlington Marshes 1-2 25/3 -
31/3, 1-3 19/4 - 24/4; Hill Head 3
29/4

Bittern: Fishlake Meadows 1/1,
2/1, 14/1, 26/1, 27/2; Titchfield
Haven 14/1; Ivy Lake, Blashford
Lakes 19/1 - 9/3

Cattle Egret: Northney, Hayling
Island max. 16 1/1 - 27/3; Warblington max. 20 1/1 - 20/4;
Titchfield Canal Path 2/1 - 24/4; Sowley Lane 14/1; Normandy Marsh 2 30/3;
Titchfield Haven 3/4; Farlington Marshes 2 13/4

Great White Egret: Blashford Lakes 1-2 1/1 - 20/3; Bedhampton 1/1; Testwood



Spoonbill - Chris Rose

Lakes 3/1 - 5/1, 5/2, 15/2, 7/3; Sway 4/1; Moorcourt Farm 4/1, 20/2, 23/2, 2 3/3; Ibsley/Harbridge 7/1, 9/3, 11/3, 17/3, 21/4; Bullington 10/1, 25/1, 9/2; Tundry Pond 11/1, 16/1; Bransbury Common 12/1, 26/1; Eversley Gravel Pit 14/1, 31/1, 9/3; Fishlake Meadows 1-3 16/1 - 25/4; Wattons Ford 23/1; Eastleigh Railway Yard 24/1; Woolmer Pond 24/1; Ringwood 28/1, 14/3, 21/3; Skidmore 10/2, 26/2, 5/3, 6/3; Titchfield Haven 12/2, 13/4; Wonston 25/2; Longparish 4/3; Hatch Warren, Basingstoke 7/3; Broadlands Estate 9/3; Pennington Village 2 12/3; Fareham 2 2/4; Barton-on-Sea 2/4; Lepe 8/4, 9/4; New Queen PH Avon 11/4; Bickton 17/4



Great Grey Shrike—Andy Tew

Osprey: Totton 30/3; Chilbolton 31/3; Lepe 1/4; Langstone Harbour 4/4, 5/4, 6/4; Titchfield Haven 4/4, 15/4; Brownwich 5/4; Black Point, Hayling Island 9/4; Pennington Village 10/4; Skidmore 10/4; Leigh Park 13/4; North Waltham 15/4; Hook-with-Warsash 2 23/4

Hen Harrier: [Reports away from roost sites] Chichester Harbour 2/1, 13/1, 19/1, 15/3; Shatterford Bottom, NF 22/1; Bratley Plain, NF 23/1; Broomy Plain, NF 3/2; Woolmer Forest 6/2; Longslade Bottom, NF 19/2; Keyhaven Marsh 6/3, 20/3; Colemore 7/3; Titchfield Haven 16/3, 17/3;

Posbrook Floods 17/3; Noar Hill 18/3

PALLID HARRIER: Titchfield Haven 13/4

Black Kite: Martin Down 20/4

Short-eared Owl: Farlington Marshes 15/3, 24/3

Hoopoe: Longparish 19/4

Merlin: Black Gutter Bottom 2/1; Deadman Hill, NF 3/1; Blackensford Hill, NF 9/1; Pennington Marsh 2 12/1, 23/1, 30/1; Brownwich 14/1; Backley Bottom, NF 18/1; Toyd Down 22/1; Bratley Plain, NF 22/1; Ripley Farm Reservoir 23/1; Barton-on-Sea 25/1; Leaden Hall, NF 30/1; Bullington 5/2; Meonstoke 8/2; Trigpoint Hill, Timsbury 25/2, 27/2; Newlands Farm (Stubbington) 26/2; Ranvilles Lane 27/2; Nursling Church 6/3; Lepe 7/3; Moorcourt Farm 19/3; Bishopstoke 4/4; Farlington Marshes 9/4; Sandy Point, Hayling Island 11/4, 14/4

Great Grey Shrike: Backley Bottom, NF 1/1 - 15/3

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW: Posbrook Floods 22/4

Yellow-browed Warbler: Hook-with-Warsash 20/1 - 2/2; Hill Head 8/4

Siberian Chiffchaff: Titchfield Haven 9/1, 13/1, 21/1, 30/1,

11/2, 14/2, 22/2; Eastleigh Sewage Farm 9/1 - 2/2, 2 5/2; Blashford Lakes 11/1, 29/1, 24/1, 28/1, 2/2; Darby Green 3 17/1, 11/2

Ring Ouzel: Iley Lane 18/3; Taddiford 29/3; Brownwich 30/3; Hill Head 2/4; Matley Heath 3/4; Trigpoint Hill, Timsbury 5/4; Hook-with-Warsash 10/4; Burridge Sports Field 2 11/4; Old Winchester Hill 11/4, 12/4, 2 27/4 - 30/4; Widden Bottom 18/4, 19/4; Cutty Brow 23/4



Cattle Egret - Keith Betton



Wheatear - Andy Tew Warily Pond 2 26/3; Totton 26/3; Havant 29/3 - 31/3; Eastney 29/3; Hordle Cliff 29/3; Lovedean 31/3; Newton Valence 3/4; Newlands Farm (Stubbington) 3/4; Chandlers Ford 7/4; Abbotswood 16/4

Wheatear: [Winter records] Lee-on-the-Solent 9/1; Southampton Western Docks 18/1

Dipper: Romsey 9/4

RICHARD'S PIPIT: Newnham 17/1 - 25/1

Water Pipit: Titchfield Canal Path 2/1 - 16/4; Alresford Watercress Beds max. 7 5/1 - 3/4; Lower Test Marshes max. 2 22/1 - 5/4; Pennington Marsh 9/3, 21/3, 23/3, 28/3, 31/3, 3/4, 13/4; Normandy Marsh 12/3; Ibsley Water, Blashford Lakes 10/4

Snow Bunting: Hook-with-Warsash 22/1; Hill Head 18/2

Pied Flycatcher: Acres Down, NF 17/4; Rooksbury Mill 25/4

Black Redstart: Woolston, Southampton 1/1 - 16/1; Stubbington 4/1; Hurst Castle 5/1, 17/1, 30/1; Centurion Business Park, Southampton 6/1, 7/1; Ranvilles Lane 9/1 - 12/1; Lee-on-the-Solent 12/1 - 13/1; Fawley Power Station 20/1; Milford-on-Sea 25/2; Tipner Lake, Portsmouth Harbour 5/3; Ringwood 20/3; Barton-on-Sea 24/3; Posbrook 25/3; Badminton GP 25/3, 26/3; Gang



Snow Bunting -Dave Levy

Please send records to the County Recorder so that they can be included in the HOS database and Hampshire Bird Report. Send them to: Keith Betton, 8 Dukes Close, Folly Hill, Farnham, GU9 0DR (Tel. 01252 724068) Email: keithbetton@hotmail.com

Records can be submitted as an email attachment using the recording form available from the home page of the HOS website: hos.org.uk/

SAVE THE DATE!

The 2023 HOS Members' Day is happening on Saturday 1 April 2023.

We will be publishing more details nearer the time, but we can promise you interesting speakers, fabulous exhibitors and a chance to meet other HOS members. So, don't be a fool, get the date in your diary now to make sure you don't miss out!

CITY LIFE

If you live in Portsmouth, Southampton or Winchester, we need your help.

Over the years HOS bird surveys have provided invaluable data on where birds are, which informs our conservation work, and helps us persuade others to protect these species.

Up until now our focus has mainly been on coastal and countryside areas, but that is about to change.

We are now considering future surveys of our cities to find out what species we have, where they can be found and in what numbers.



Blue Tit - Brian Cartwright

So, as we are very much in the planning stage we thought it would be a great opportunity to ask those members who live in our cities to help us by suggesting which species we could start with in terms of the first surveys.



Mallard - Brian Cartwright

So, if you want to let us know which birds in your city we should survey then please get in touch.

You can contact us at hoskingfisher@outlook.com with your suggestions and we will look at them all and plan our work moving forward.

OUT BIRDING!

Whitchurch Mill Trail Walk. Words and pictures by Ian Julian

Keyhaven, Pennington, Farlington Marshes: these will forever remain the favourite walks for HOS members. Knowing we will not only see vast numbers and species of birds, but good views of them, and Hampshire and Dorset are mostly famed for their winter seabirds.

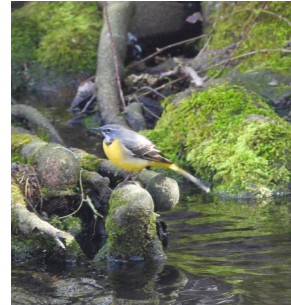
But, there are many locations to be found inland, certainly not with the quantity of shorebirds, but where you can savour the green countryside of Hampshire with the flora and butterflies of chalk downlands, or the hundreds of Red Kites, or the purest chalk streams in the world.



So it was I ventured into my old county to walk the River Test starting from the silk mill in the village of Whitchurch, having never have been there before, like most people on the walk with me. How many residents of Hampshire even know we used to have silk mills in the county?

In truth most of the Test is inaccessible, which is disappointing but, on the plus side, means the wildlife is undisturbed. The river looks wonderful and clear, but then so does the Itchen, and as Roger Harris has informed us, the Itchen is mainly devoid of invertebrates, hence most wildlife, due to chemicals in the water.

But it all made for a pleasant walk in early spring. Two Sparrowhawks saw us on our way from the car park, followed by a Red Kite overhead and farmland birds.



As often happens, some of the best birds were found at Whitchurch Mill itself, at the end of the walk, where we adjourned for coffees and putting the world to right – again. The Mallards were courting and fighting, traditional at this time of year, an



Egret obligingly sat with a Heron for size comparison and a Grey Wagtail wagged his way close to where we were seated.

Thanks to walk leaders Rachael Groundsell and Felicia Green. I'd do it again, and next time I will visit the museum.

OUT BIRDING!

Normandy Marsh and Oxey Lagoon by Ian Packer

I led this walk to Normandy Marsh and Oxey Lagoon on Tuesday 29 March. There were eight of us in total, a good turnout for a midweek walk, and we enjoyed a really good four hours at the reserves. The terrain is easy walking and the paths are either gravel or green sward.

The weather was a bit cloudy but the light was good and we had a broad selection of gulls, waders and woodland species.

One of the highlights of the day for all of us were the Eider that we came across, many of the males now sporting full summer plumage. Members enjoyed good views through my telescope as the birds loafed out on the mudbank at the spartina edge.



Avocet - Rob Porter

We were also lucky to be able to pick up a handful of Mediterranean Gulls flying over and compare the upper and under wing patterns to nearby Black-headed Gulls. There were Great and Lesser Black-backs, and Herring Gulls, providing a very useful size comparison.

Also on the Lagoon we spotted Avocets, Redshank, Spotted Redshank, Snipe, Dunlin, Curlew and Turnstone. Getting to grips with

the finer points on Black-tailed and Bar-tailed Godwits was instructive. It made for great watching everywhere with plentiful species to add to the list.

The birds just kept coming once we moved away from the water. We caught a glimpse of a Dartford Warbler which was a real treat, and also saw Nuthatch, Treecreeper, Stonechat and Meadow Pipit, as well as singing Chiffchaff and Skylark which were a wonderful accompaniment to the chack chack of the Jackdaws.

We all agreed that this was a very pleasant walk with a really good variety of species.



Stonechat - Rob Porter

H05 1N NUM8ER5

On the record - HOS 2020 records in numbers

In 2020 a total of 257 species was recorded for Hampshire, including a new bird for the county - an Eastern Yellow Wagtail in October at Brownwich.

The number of species was up by eight from the 2019 total, despite the Covid restrictions, and was the highest since 2013.

There were 367,753 records of bird sightings in Hampshire in 2020.

An amazing 1,621 individual observers contributed to the database - 15% up on 2019.

The most widespread species in 2020 (number of species recorded in most tetrads*) were:

1. Woodpigeon [636 tetrads out of a total of 1021]
2. Robin [609]
- =3 Blackbird [608]
- =3 Carrion Crow [608]
5. Blue Tit [583]



When it comes to the top five rarest, there were 24 records which referred to single individual birds. Out of these 24, the following are listed in terms of their rarity in Hampshire based on number of previous occurrences up to and including 2020:

1. Eastern Yellow Wagtail [1]. The only new first for the county in 2020.
2. Pallid Swift [4]
3. Citrine Wagtail [6]
- =4. Wilson's Phalarope [7]
- =4. American Golden Plover [7]
- =4. Bonaparte's Gull [7]

The top three sites [1km squares] with the most submitted records in descending order were Farlington Marshes, Pennington Marshes and Hook-with-Warsash.

The top three sites [1km squares] with the most species were Titchfield Haven/Hill Head [197], Sandy Point [182] and Pennington Marshes [also 182].

* A tetrad is a 2km square on the Ordnance Survey (OS) grid – which contains 4x1km squares.

PEREGRINE UPDATE

The two peregrine chicks at Winchester Cathedral were ringed on 24 May this year. We have a male and female, who now have lightweight orange plastic rings with three initials: XSC - female, XNC - male. The male is the smaller chick which is always the case with Peregrines.



Peregrine chick - Keith Betton

Both chicks were in very good shape and have been fed well so far and Winnie and William will now be dropping food into the gully and letting the chicks work out how to eat it themselves.

Peregrine chick - Keith Betton



They have also started to wander around the gully floor and if you are watching on the webcam you will soon see a lot of wing stretching, runs and jumps as they work out the idea of flying. The first attempts at flying are due around 21 June, and that will be a risky time for them, so the Cathedral staff are ready with their peregrine recovery box to fetch a chick if it ends up stuck on the ground.

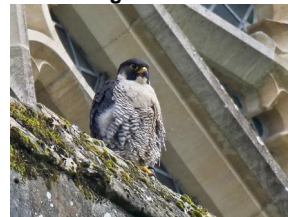
The chicks are ringed under a Government licence and it does not hurt the birds - although clearly it is a bit frightening to suddenly meet humans for the first time. Ringing allows us to check the birds over, and the ring means we can identify these birds in future years when they settle down to nest. Winnie has seen this process about 10 times now and she settles down as soon as we have gone.

Webcams

You can follow several pairs of peregrines from the comfort of your own home on our webcams. A new camera, following the peregrines, has now gone live at New Milton Water Tower. There are others on Winchester Cathedral, St Mary's Church in Andover, and on a nest in Southampton Docks.

You can find links to all these cameras on the Hampshire Bird Sites page of the HOS website.

Peregrine - Rob Porter



FOCUS ON OLD WINCHESTER HILL

By Carol Rawlings

My first visit to Old Winchester Hill was on a sunny and warm Saturday in May and the birds did their best to make it a fantastic experience from the moment we stepped out of the car.

The car park was a cacophony of bird song – Robin, Long-tailed Tits, Chiffchaff and Blackbird, with Jackdaws and Magpies calling overhead and Woodpigeon droning in the background. And it just kept getting better.

As we left the carpark and walked along the path the views across the Meon Valley were spectacular. You can't fail to notice the Iron Age hill fort that dominates the skyline and is an immediate target for walkers.



Great views! Photo - Karen Austin



Red-legged Partridges crossed the path in front of us and we heard the distinctive 'little bit of bread and no cheese' call of Yellowhammer as we walked on.

One of the things that struck me about Old Winchester Hill was the big skies, and as we looked up we saw a Red Kite and a Buzzard being watched closely by what we guessed to be a Raven as it looked too big to be a crow.

Yellowhammer - Andy Tew

There is a choice of walks on the reserve, the circular route around the site takes you up steepish slopes and through woodland, and the hill fort route at the top of the hill, is level once you get up there!

Butterflies abound and we kept getting quick flashes of yellow and blue out of the corner of our eyes as we peered into the trees for a glimpse of Firecrest and Common Whitethroat, both summer visitors to the reserve.

We didn't spot a Hobby on this visit, but they can be seen in the summer, along with Skylark, Nuthatch, Lapwing, and Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers.

But Old Winchester Hill is not just a reserve for the early summer. This reserve is a good site for migrants. If you time your visit right in spring and autumn, you will be treated to the sight of flocks of Golden Plover in the surrounding fields and Common Redstart on passage in autumn, and the occasional Ring Ouzel makes an appearance in April or October.

This chalk downland with its spectacular birds is a gem of a reserve. Whichever way you walk you will find birds, butterflies, a variety of beautiful flowers and a spectacular view. We can't wait to visit again.



Hobby - Steve Payce



Whitethroat - Rob Porter

You can drive to the reserve via the A32 Fareham to Alton road at Warnford. There is a small free car park at the northern end of the reserve, but this gets busy at weekends.

If you want to see Old Winchester Hill for yourself, why not join the HOS walk, led by Keith Betton and Janice Beck. See page 20 for more details.

For more information about the reserve and what you can see there, have a look at Keith Betton's book, **Where to Watch Birds in Dorset, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.**



Photo: Karen Austin

T A K E 5

Our focus on local photographers

My name is Zac Welling and I am 12 years old. I have always been interested in nature and am told I was naming birds on our bird feeders when I was about two.

In 2017 our family went on a trip to see Bee Eaters in Nottingham on the way to visit family. There were people with big, long-lensed cameras and I wished that I had a good camera to get great shots of the wildlife I had seen.

I started with a small hand me down Samsung digital camera but I saved up birthday and Christmas money and did jobs to pay for my Canon SX 50 HS bridge camera which I got when I was eight.



I am proud to be a member of HOS and really enjoy going out birdwatching.



Bittern - Blashford Lakes, March 2019

I was in a hide at Blashford Lakes and waited over an hour and a half for this Bittern to show. I snuck up to the window and waited for it to come out in the open. I was fortunate to get a shot of the whole bird. I am pleased with this photo because of the way it blends in with its environment and because of the clarity of the shot.



European wall lizard - Isle of Wight, July 2020

The wild European wall lizards are famously found on the Isle of Wight. I spent more than an hour waiting for the perfect lizard to come and bask in the right place.

I love the colours in the background and the fact that I am at eye level with the lizard. I am really pleased with the colour, detail and clarity of the photo.

Redpoll - Blashford Lakes, March 2019

I was at Blashford Lakes and whilst walking down a path I came across this attractive redpoll.

I like this photo because it is well framed and the bird is clear.





Crossbill - New Forest, Hampshire, May 2021

I was walking in the New Forest when I heard the "glip, glip, glip" of a Crossbill. I looked up and saw them, but had to be quick to react to get the photo while they were eating pine cones.

**Gannets -
Bempton Cliffs,
Yorkshire, June 2019**

This gannet photograph was taken at Bempton Cliffs, Yorkshire, where I spent the whole day taking photos of all sorts of seabirds and striving to get the perfect gannet shot.

I like this shot because of the way two birds are courting and the other is just minding his own business!



YOU NEED YOUR THERMALS!

You might think that is a strange thing to be writing in the summer issue of Kingfisher. But it's true!

HOS has purchased two thermal imagers to help its surveyors identify key sites for secretive species such as Jack Snipe, Woodcock and Long-eared Owl. If you are interested in helping HOS to survey for these species and would be willing to survey agreed areas using a thermal imager, please contact Keith Betton (keithbetton@hotmail.com).



Woodcock - Shane King



Long-eared Owl - Keith Betton



Jack Snipe - Keith Betton

TOP FIVE!

Andy Johnson writes about the five birds he likes best and the five he dislikes most .

Last year, I watched *'Bill Oddie's Top Ten Birds'* in which he listed what he considered to be the UK public's most loved and most villainous birds. This has nudged me to write this article outlining my own favourites (and most hated!). This is intended to be (mostly) light-hearted, so please don't take offence if any of your favourites are included in my dislikes list.

My top five in reverse order

5. Jack Snipe

Jack Snipe is a species which, if you'll pardon the expression, has "got balls". They are always a treat to see, especially if you spot one before flushing it, crouching low among the marsh plants, relying on its spectacularly camouflaged plumage to evade detection. Much better is watching one feeding unconcernedly, bobbing exaggeratedly and comically as they do. My worst nightmare would be flushing one just as there's a passing... (more of that later in my bottom five list!)

4. Dipper

I find birds that are remarkably adapted to their way of life particularly appealing. And they don't get any better than a songbird which feeds at the bottom of rivers! Watching one bobbing on a mid-stream rock before plunging in is a real treat, and often has the added bonus that you're in an incredibly scenic environment. It's a sight I don't tend to see these days, as I'm rarely in the right part of the country.

3. Rook

Rooks get a really bad press because they look like crows. And, sadly, a lot of people – especially farmers and land-owners – don't seem to know the difference between the two. But whereas crows are nasty, rooks are nice, ambling around fields and road verges looking for grubs. Even their gentle "Aaah" calls are rather comical. They make me smile every time I see them.

2. Treecreeper

For me, treecreeper has to be the most spectacular yet understated species in Britain. Again, beautifully adapted to their life creeping unobtrusively up tree trunks, with intricately patterned upperparts, pure white underparts and delicately downcurved bill. Their rather anonymous high-pitched call and delightful descending song add to their modest and unassuming nature.

1. Waxwing

Waxwings tick every box. They're amazing looking - pink and grey, black mask, punk crest etc. They also sound incredible, with their trilling call. Indifferent to humans, they often turn up in ridiculous places like supermarket car parks where they scoff berries and are admired by birders and the general public alike. They are scarce enough for it to be exciting to see one, but not so rare it's unlikely to happen. Worth seeing whenever they're around, they are my favourite species!



Waxwing - Alan Lewis

My bottom five – again in reverse order

5. Sparrowhawk

...I would hate to flush a Jack Snipe just when there's a passing Sparrowhawk! There's no denying that Sparrowhawks are stunning birds, especially their piercing yellow eyes. But they're nasty. To observe one despatching its prey is a harrowing watch. They nest on my patch, so I feel I'm in constant competition with them to find that tired rarity. And I suspect I know who wins!

Clattering Woodpigeon
Brian Cartwright

4. Woodpigeon

You've just seen a potentially interesting bird in the trees. Stealthily you creep forward to get another view. One more step, to get a better angle, and 'clatter' – there's an explosion of wings as Woodpigeons exit the vegetation, sending every other bird in the vicinity diving for cover, never to be seen again. The second problem with woodpigeon is that there are just too many of them. Combined, it makes a very frustrating day out.



3. White-tailed Eagle

Of course, it's not the birds themselves I dislike – they are a hugely impressive spectacle. It's the fact that any sense of awe has been completely removed by the ill-advised reintroduction attempt on the Isle of Wight. Previously, the arrival of a wild bird would attract large crowds of excited birders. Not any more. The species has been taken away from the people who care (birders), in an attempt to appeal to the people who don't (the general public).

2. Carrion Crow

There's no doubt carrion crows deserve credit for being so intelligent. But they are evil geniuses. I've seen them taunt and kill too many other birds to forgive, and they incessantly mob every interesting bird that turns up on my patch before it's even had the chance to land. Even their calls are raucous and evil. They make me grimace every time I see them!

1. Herring Gull

Herring Gulls have a well-deserved reputation among the public: noisy, aggressive, stealing pasties etc. For me they actually make it personal. Hanging around like yobs on rooftops, when they spot me in the distance they start yapping. As I get closer it escalates into yelping and circling intimidatingly above me – it is ironic that they target the one person who should be on their side! They are unquestionably my number one least favourite species.

The views expressed in this article are those of the author, not the Editor of Kingfisher or HOS.

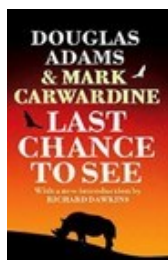
BOTTOM FIVE!



DESERT ISLAND BOOKS

Our castaway in this issue is Helen Schneider.

Growing up in the New Forest, I learnt the names of common plants and animals from my mum but neither my parents nor my schoolfriends were birders. My interest in birds was really only piqued when I graduated from uni and went to work in conservation in Australia. Trees full of colourful parrots are hard to ignore! Over the years I've had some very good birding mates while working overseas. Since returning to the UK and getting involved in Hawfinch research and ringing, my ID skills have come on in leaps and bounds but I still have a lot to learn.

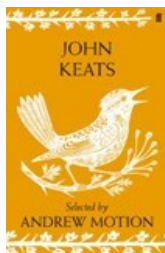
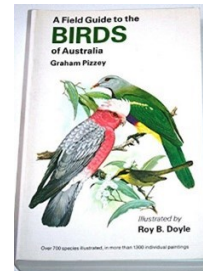


Last Chance to See, Douglas Adams & Mark Cawardine

The book I would save from the waves. At once hilarious and poignant this 1988 travelogue details the authors' search for species on the edge of extinction. While conservation efforts since then have improved the lot of some of the bird species they sought, the mammals have fared less well: the Yangtze River dolphin was declared extinct in 2006, and only two Northern White Rhino remain, both female. Some notable Adams' quotes about the latter: "it was like watching a JCB quietly getting on with a little weeding" and "[it] hurtled off across the plain like a nimble young tank".

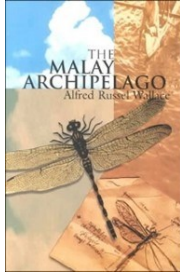
A Field Guide to the Birds of Australia, Graham Pizzey

Does what it says on the tin and brings back so many happy memories of undertaking avian and marsupial surveys, bird-ringing, and planting thousands of native trees in huge and diverse landscapes, all while trying not to get bitten or stung by anything too deadly.



John Keats by Andrew Motion

I love many of Keats' nature poems and the way they conjure up the sights and sounds of the English countryside. My favourite line from Ode to a Nightingale often comes to mind while out in the woods on a warm evening: "thou light-winged Dryad of the trees In some melodious plot of beechen green, and shadows numberless, Singest of summer in full-throated ease". I hope to hear such mellow song on an upcoming trip to Knepp.



The Malay Archipelago, Alfred Russel Wallace

A weighty but very readable tome detailing pre-modern life in Indonesia with its diversity of people, flora and fauna as experienced by Wallace on his journeys across this huge archipelago in the 1860s. His basic premise still holds true today that the deep channel between Bali and Lombok forms the boundary between two very different biological zones that only a small number of species have crossed. It reminds me of nearly a decade of living and working in this amazingly diverse country.

Goshawk Summer, James Aldred

The most recent of my chosen books, so evocative of a seemingly otherworldly summer in the New Forest as we lived through the peace and quiet of the first Covid-19 lockdown and the chaos that ensued when it was lifted. Memories of lockdown birding, butterfly and dragonfly hunting within walking distance from home are bittersweet; while other people suffered on so many fronts, we were so lucky to enjoy nature at its finest.



KINGFISHER ISSUE 174 Autumn/Winter 2022

The next issue of Kingfisher will be out in October 2022.

If you would like to submit articles please send them to
hoskingfisher@outlook.com
Deadline September 6 2022.

Calling all photographers

Keep your amazing pictures of all species coming in via the email address above. Your challenge for the next issue is to get pictures of Swifts. I know it's not easy, but you can do it!

When you send pictures in, please make sure the jpeg file name contains the species, where it was taken and your name.



Linnet - Rob Porter

OUT AND ABOUT



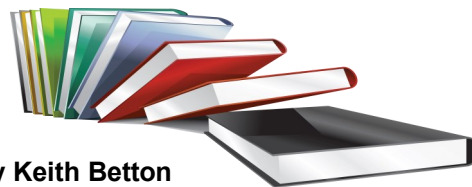
HOS young members enjoying a visit to Tidgrove Warren to see the Stone Curlews in May. They were followed the same day by members of the HOS WhatsApp group for women members.

Solution to HOS Cryptic Crossword Number 11 by Andy Johnson

This was the last crossword of the current batch. I hope they provided as much enjoyment for people solving them as they did for me compiling them

R	C	S	N	O	W	B	U	N	T	I	N	G
U	P	P	A	D		Y					R	
P	R	V	O	W	L	A	P	P	L	E		
P	L	A	U	E	L	E						
E	L	E	O	N	O	R	A	S	F	A	L	C
L	W	N		S		H		W				
L	S	A	H	E	E	G	O					
S		H	I	R		R		O				
W	A	S	T	R	U	N		A	N	D		
A	U	P		E		P		P				
R	E	D	B	A	C	K	E	D	S	H	R	I
B	I	R		P	O	P		C				
L	B	A	R	N		B	O	B	O	L	I	N
E	L	O				L	E	T				
R	E	E	D	W	A	R	B	L	E	R	S	R

BOOK REVIEW BOOK REVIEW BOOK REVIEW



By Keith Betton

Gulls of Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East
By Peter Adriaens, Mars Muusse, Philippe J Dubois and
Frédéric Jiguet
Princeton University Press. 2021. 320 pages.
Many colour photographs
ISBN 9780691222837.
£29.99 (softback)



Gulls are real Marmite birds – you love them or hate them! If you arrive at Blashford Lakes two hours before sunset in winter you'll see more gulls in one view than you can count and apart from the spectacle, these may contain several tricky species which most of us are not totally familiar with. Despite this (or perhaps because of it) the popularity of gulls has increased among local birders.

Our understanding of their plumage variations has increased greatly in recent years, and books like this bring identification tips to all of us in an accessible and eye-catching way.



Written and compiled by Dutch and French gull experts this book uses annotated 'cut-out' photos of gulls with the key features labelled for ease of recognition. In each case the backgrounds have been removed to focus our attention fully on the birds. The photos show adult plumages, followed by the different immature age classes. The design is not cluttered and allows plenty of space for the

images. These are accompanied concise text with a summary of the key features.

One aspect of the species accounts are the 'Similar taxa' charts. These suggest comparable plumages in other species that could trip you up. Take for example Common Gull and Ring-billed Gull – a common pitfall. For gull enthusiasts there are examples given to gull types that we very rarely see such as Thayer's Gull (which has appeared once in Hampshire) and American Herring Gull (which has yet to be seen – I bet it's been here though!).

If you've always feared identifying gulls, then this book will either make you more confident or terrify you! The truth is that gull ID is like riding a bicycle. You need to do it again and again and eventually everything becomes easier. Remember, Hampshire's first American Herring Gull is a day nearer to being found than it was yesterday!



NEW



Cygnet - Brian Cartwright



ARRIVALS!



Mallard ducklings
Brian Cartwright



Canada Goose goslings
Brian Cartwright

PHOTO FINISH



Blackcap - Rob Porter

HITTING THE

Chiffchaff - Dave Levy





HIGH NOTES!



Wren - Andy Tew



Sedge Warbler - Bob Marchant



Cetti's Warbler - Rob Porter

PHOTO FINISH

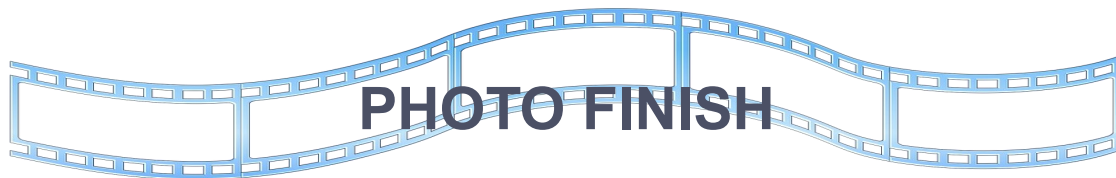
TWO'S



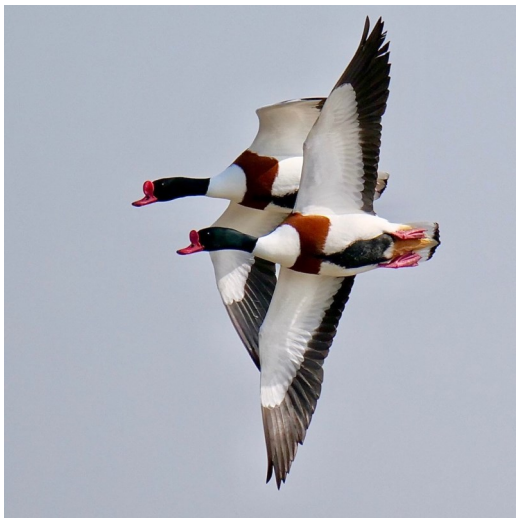
Bullfinch pair
Steve Payce



Buzzard and Crow
Brian Cartwright



COMPANY



Shelduck - Rob Porter



Goldfinch - Brian Cartwright



Avocets - Rob Porter

See you in October!

Until then, enjoy the summer!

